

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELFAS 00152 141429Z
ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-06 AID-01 /034 W
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FM AMCONSUL BELFAST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1961
INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OREP (EILBERG, JOSHUA), UK
SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF CONGRESSMEN EILBERG AND FISH -- PRISON VISIT

REF. A. STATE 203255, B. BELFAST 150

1. IN REF A CODEL ASKS TO VISIT "LONG KESH" PRISON (OFFICIAL NAME IS HM PRISON THE MAZE).
2. OUR INITIAL APPROACH MET WITH A PRELIMINARY NEGATIVE, BUT A CONSIDERED RESPONSE WILL BE MADE LATER. IT WAS NOTED TO US THAT NOT EVEN WESTMINISTER MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT ARE ALLOWED TO VISIT THE MAZE UNLESS THEY HAVE CONSTITUENTS IMPRISONED THERE. (NOTE: PARA SEVEN LONDON 11576 REPORTED: "IN THE HOUSE JULY 13 MINISTER OF STATE DON CONCANNON REJECTED THE IDEA OF 'GENERAL INTEREST' VISITS BY MPS TO THE MAZE PRISON. SUCH VISITS WOULD INCREASE TENSION IN THE PRISON AND ADD TO THE BURDENS ON THE STAFF.")
3. IN GENERAL, TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE THE ONLY PERSONS ALLOWED VISITS ARE RELATIVES, FAMILY CLERGYMEN, CONSULS AND SOLICITORS IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR REPRESENTATION FUNCTIONS, AND MPS WHOSE CONSTITUENTS ARE IMPRISONED (IN EFFECT, MPS FROM NORTHERN IRELAND. SUCH VISITS ORDINARILY ARE RESTRICTED TO REGULAR VISITOR AREAS, WHERE THE PRISONER IS BROUGHT TO THE

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VISITOR.

4. FOR THE CONGEN TO PURSUE THE CODEL'S REQUEST MORE EFFECTIVELY, IT MIGHT HELP TO KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THE CODEL WISHES TO SEE IN THE MAZE, AND HOW THE CODEL ENVISAGES THE VISIT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO FULFILLING THE PURPOSE OF THE TRIP (PARA TWO REF A).STOUT

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NNN

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